

Steve Stolte, President of the Board, was appointed to fill an unexpired term in 2011 and has served as a commissioner ever since. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Steve was Union County Engineer for nearly a quarter-century and Marysville City Engineer prior to that. He was named Ohio County Engineer of the Year in 1996 and received the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's William H. Anderson Excellence in Public Service Award in 2019.

Madam Speaker, the people of Union County will gather for an open house on December 17 to celebrate Charles's and Steve's retirement. On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am proud to join in the accolades to them for their devotion to public service. We wish them and their families every success as they move to a new chapter in their lives.

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6395,  
WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

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SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

I'd like to thank my colleague, Chairman ADAM SMITH, for his consistent efforts to include key House provisions in this year's NDAA conference report. I was very pleased that the provisions which the Congressional Black Caucus led that calls for the renaming of Confederate military bases made it into the final bill. There is a dangerous and hurtful legacy of white supremacy in this country, and there is no place for the memorialization of the historical figures that perpetuated it, especially on our military bases. I'm pleased that the CBC and House Democrats successfully kept this important provision in the final text of the bill.

However, the FY 21 NDAA continues our legacy of wasteful military spending and investing in war rather than peace. This legislation provides \$732 billion in discretionary spending, nearly the exact same number as last year's number, which was the largest number ever authorized.

Especially as we fight back a catastrophic pandemic and public health crisis, Congress should not be rewarding the Pentagon with a massive spending increase. I cannot support a bill that funds the Pentagon at a level far beyond what is necessary for our national defense, turning our backs on the serious human need we face today.

For these reasons, I am unable to support the NDAA conference report and will vote no.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHAWN  
FARRITOR

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2020*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of Shawn Farritor. Shawn was born in June 1967 with a birth defect called transposition of the great arteries, meaning the two main arteries leaving his heart were reversed. Shawn overcame these challenges to become an attorney and published author, and it inspired him to spend his life helping others. Shawn received a double lung and heart transplant in December 2019 and spent a year fighting to recover before leaving us in September 2020. He was born and raised in Ravenna, Nebraska, and spent his professional career in Grand Island and Hastings.

Spending his professional career providing legal support to those who needed it most, Shawn made a big effort to learn the language and culture of those he served and was known as someone who "would actually listen." He was a literacy council volunteer, United Way professional partner, and served on the Friendship House board of directors as Vice President. He was also an active supporter of survivors of the transposition procedure he underwent. For his contributions to communities in the Third District, Shawn is an honorable mention recipient of the 2020 Innovation and Adaptation Recognition.

Shawn is missed by all especially his wife, stepson, and family. He was beloved by all for his big heart and passion for helping others. We are grateful for Shawn and proud of everything he has done for many Nebraskans.

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RECOGNIZING UNIVERSAL CITY  
POLICE CHIEF GARY SPEER

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2020*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Universal City Police Chief Gary Speer. Chief Speer has retired after 40 years in law enforcement and 36 years of service with the Universal City Police Department.

Chief Speer is an individual who consistently displayed the utmost commitment to his community. He began his career in law enforcement in 1981 as a reserve officer for Bexar County Precinct 3. He eventually served in a few different departments before joining the Universal City Police Department as a patrolman in 1984. Over time he steadily rose through the ranks. He achieved the rank of Sergeant in 1989, Lieutenant in 1997, Assistant Chief in 2001, and soon earned the position of Chief in 2007. During this time, he was also honored with several awards including Police Officer of the Year by the Lions Club and Police Officer of the Year for the State of Texas by the American Legion.

I have worked with Chief Speer over the years and witnessed first-hand the essential work he has done to keep his community safe. He cared deeply about the people he served

and consistently showed what it means to put the well-being of others first. The dedication that he has shown to us all should be a constant reminder of how we should be in our daily lives. This devotion to others is also consistent with the history of his family. Chief Speer's Grandfather, father, and brother all served their communities as members of law enforcement.

In addition to the hard work and dedication he showed as a member of the law enforcement community, he is also an active member of his community. He is a member of Shriners International, the San Antonio Livestock Exposition and its Scramble Committee, the Texas Police Association, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association. But most importantly, he is a devoted father and grandfather.

As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate the service of heroes like Chief Speer and all the individuals who risk their lives each day to keep us safe. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career and service of Chief Speer.

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HBCU PROPELLING AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF RESULTS FOR STUDENT ACT

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SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus and an original co-sponsor, I rise in support of the bipartisan S. 461, the "HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act" (HBCU PARTNERS Act), which will strengthen partnerships between federal agencies and the country's more than 100 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The HBCU PARTNERS Act requires federal agencies with relevant grants and programs to undertake annual planning and coordinate their efforts to support and expand HBCU participation in those programs.

The bill strengthens the rigor and transparency requirements of existing law by requiring that agencies track their progress toward past goals and share their plans with Congress.

In addition, it codifies the White House Board of Advisors on HBCUs, ensuring an ongoing avenue for the institutions' priorities and policy concerns to be raised.

As a strong proponent of the preservation of our nation's HBCU's and MSI's, I support this bill because our students deserve to receive an outstanding education and have access to equal resources, regardless of the institution they choose to attend.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that one of the greatest HBCUs in the country, Texas Southern University, is located in my congressional district.

Texas Southern University has a rich history with nine academic units, 1,000 dedicated staff members, and over 9,200 esteemed students.